

DUCHESENE STAKE OF ZION consists of Latter-day Saints residing in the west part of Duchesne County, Utah, extending north to the summit of the Uintah Mountains, east to the Roosevelt Stake, south to the so-called Bad Land Cliffs, and west to the boundary line between Duchesne and Wasatch counties. The headquarters of the stake in 1930 were at Mount Emmons, and the stake consisted of the following wards: Altonah, Arcadia, Bluebell, Boneta, Duchesne, Midview, Mount Emmons, Mountain Home, Redcliff, Strawberry, Tabiona, Talmage and Upalco. The inhabitants within the limits of the stake are mostly engaged in farming and stock raising. Some of the lands in that part of Utah are fertile, though the surface of the

country is somewhat broken or rolling; the altitude varies from 4,000 to 7,000 feet.

Most of the country now included in the Duchesne Stake constituted a part of the Uintah Indian Reservation until 1905, which accounts for the fact that it was not settled before, or until, at least a part of it was thrown open for white settlers, but the Indians were given the privilege of homesteading or claiming the best sections of land. When the whites, mostly Latter-day Saints, commenced to make homes on what had formerly been the Indian Reservation, they belonged to the Uintah Stake of Zion, but at a stake conference held at Vernal, Sept. 14, 1910, the Uintah Stake was divided and the west part, or the Indian Reservation, was organized as the Duchesne Stake. William H. Smart, who had presided over the Eastern States Mission, was chosen as president of the Duchesne Stake, with Ephraim Lambert as his first, and Joseph H. Hardy as second counselor; William H. Gagon was chosen as stake clerk. At the time of its organization the Duchesne Stake consisted of the following bishop's wards and branches: Boneta, Hayden, Roosevelt, Tabiona and Theodore.

At a stake conference held June 27, 1920, the Duchesne Stake of Zion was divided and the eastern part of the same, containing Alterra, Bennett, Cedar View, Hayden, Ioka, Myton, Neola, Randlett and Roosevelt, were organized as the Roosevelt Stake of Zion, with William H. Smart, formerly president of the Duchesne Stake, as president. The wards of Altonah, Arcadia, Bluebell, Boneta, Duchesne, Midview, Mount Emmons, Mountain Home, Redcliff, Strawberry, Tabiona, Talmage, Upalco and Utah were retained in the Duchesne Stake, and embraced the west part of the Uintah Basin. Owen Bennion was chosen as president of the diminished Duchesne Stake, with George V. Billings (Bishop of the Duchesne Ward) as first, and Ira B. Cannon (Bishop of the Mt. Emmons Ward) as second counselor.

Encyclopedic History of the Church of Los Angeles, 1941

In the organization of the new stake the northern, western, and southern stake lines remained the same as before, but the east line running north and south separating the Duchesne Stake from the Roosevelt Stake was established at the so-called Dry Gulch, about five miles east of Bluebell, a part of the way running southeastward Lake Fork River. In the southern part of the stake the east boundary line follows the course of Lake Fork River until the point where that river empties into the Duchesne River, thence the boundary line runs south until it connects with the southern line running east and west.

Following is a list of the presidents, counselors and stake clerks of the Duchesne Stake: Presidents: William H. Smart, 1910-1920, and Owen Bennion, 1920-1930. First counselors: Ephraim Lambert, 1910-1916; Paul S. Hanson 1916-1920, and George V. Billings 1920-1930. Second counselors: Joseph H. Hardy, 1910-1918; Owen Bennion 1918-1920, and Ira B. Cannon, 1920-1930. Stake clerks: William H. Gagon 1910-1912; Ernest H. Burgess, 1912-1914; Harden Bennion, 1914-1916; Joseph H. Hardy, 1916-1917; Douglas M. Todd, jun., 1917-1920; Leroy C. Rust, 1920-1930, and F. Earl Casper 1930. The Church membership of the Duchesne Stake Dec. 31, 1930, was 3,215, including 803 children.

DUCHESENE WARD, Duchesne Stake, Duchesne Co., Utah, consisting of Latter-day Saints residing in and near the city of Duchesne, the seat of Duchesne County, situated at the junction of Strawberry Creek with the Duchesne River, 25 miles southwest of Roosevelt, 50 miles southwest of Vernal, Uintah Co., and 60 miles southeast of Heber City.

The first branch of the Church on the Uintah Indian Reservation was called the Duchesne Branch of the Wasatch Stake. It was organized Nov. 30, 1906, by Pres. Joseph R. Murdock of the Wasatch Stake, with Silas D. Smith presiding Elder. He was succeeded

by Joseph W. Musser June 6, 1906, and the Duchesne Branch was made part of the Uintah Stake. On Sept. 3, 1906, the Duchesne Branch was organized as a ward with Ephraim Lambert as Bishop. In 1906 the saints at Theodore were organized as a branch of the Duchesne Ward with Joseph A. Fortie as presiding Elder, and on Aug. 27, 1907, the Duchesne Ward, which hitherto had contained all the saints in Duchesne County, or in that part of the country which had recently constituted the Uintah Indian Reservation, was divided, and a part of the same (the Theodore Branch) was organized as the Theodore Ward with Alma N. Murdock as Bishop, while the east part was temporarily continued as the Duchesne Ward, with Ephraim Lambert as Bishop. Soon afterwards the Duchesne Ward was named Roosevelt and the Theodore Ward named Duchesne Ward. In 1910 Bishop Murdock was succeeded as Bishop of the Duchesne Ward by George V. Billings, who in 1920 was succeeded by Francis M. Shelton, who in 1922 was succeeded by James M. Mickelsen, who acted as Bishop of the Duchesne Ward Dec. 31, 1930. On that date the Church membership of the ward was 496, including 141 children. The total population of the Duchesne Precinct was 869 in 1930; of these 590 resided in the town of Duchesne.